CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Artificial disc replacement (ADR) apparatus, comprising:

an endplate having a surface that articulates with a cooperating component; and

wherein the surface of the endplate is formed with separate components that are physically configured for assembly within an intervertebral disc space.

2. (Original) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the endplate, or the endplate and the cooperating component, are composed of dissimilar materials.

3. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the endplate is composed of Nitinol or other shape-memory material.

4. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 3, wherein the Nitinol or other shape-memory material is used to form projections that diverge or converge after insertion in the disc space.

5. (Original) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the endplate includes an articulating component composed of chrome cobalt or another metal alloy.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the separate components are adapted to be press-fit into a vertebral body.

8. (Previously Presented) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separate components are connected through a snap-fit engagement.

9. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 5, wherein the separate components are connected through a hinge.

10. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the endplate includes an articulating component that is treaded into the endplate.

11. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the endplate includes an articulating component that is press-fit into the endplate.

12. (Withdrawn) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the endplate includes an articulating component that is press-fit through a Morse-taper type joint.

13. (Previously Presented) The ADR apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cooperating component is a spacer that is not rigidly connected to the endplate.

14. (Original) The ADR apparatus of claim 13, wherein the spacer is rotated or otherwise manipulated to achieve a vertebral distraction function.

15. (Original) The ADR apparatus of claim 13, wherein the spacer is contained within a disc space using a clip or other retaining element.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The ADR apparatus of claim 13, wherein the spacer is contained within a disc space using a mesh or elastic component.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of implanting an artificial disc replacement (ADR) into an intervertebral disc space, comprising the steps of:
providing an endplate <u>having an articulating surface</u> constructed from first and second

components;

installing the first component into an intervertebral disc space; and

installing the second component into the disc space by attaching the second component to the first component, thereby assembling the endplate *in situ* such that the first and second components can move in unison relative to a cooperating component through sliding motion against the articulating surface.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the first and second components are comprised of dissimilar materials.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~further including~~ wherein the cooperating component is a spacer component which is also assembled *in situ*.

21. (Canceled)